

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully submits this response to an Office Action mailed on March 9, 2005. Revised Figure 3, including a designation "Replacement Sheet" is provided with this response. Reconsideration and acceptance of revised Figure 3 is respectfully requested.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 6-10 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 (b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,496,348 to Genese et al. (hereinafter, the Genese patent). Also, claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,551,283 to Guo et al. (hereinafter, the Guo patent) and the Genese patent.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 15 recite a septum housing of a "fixed" or "particular" length "*wherein the septum housing length is configured to apply a desired compressive force to the septum*". Support for this revision to the claims is found on page 9, lines 8-15. The specification clearly states the septum housing length may be "configured so it would apply the desired compressive force to septum 29 instead of catheter adapter 24". Neither the Genese or Guo references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a septum housing having a *length*, such that the *length of the housing* enables application of a desired compressive force to the septum.

Indeed, the referenced art teaches away from using a *septum housing length* to apply a compressive force. Specifically, the Genese patent describes a compression mechanism 32 including washers for distributing the compressive force of the spring (see col. 7, lines 26-36). Further, the Guo patent teaches an inner circular section 82 of cap 80 for imposing axial compression (see col. 6, lines 30-35). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully suggest that claims 1, 10, 15 and all claims depending there from are in a form for allowance.

Claims 1-20 were rejected in under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claim 12 of U.S. Patent 6,506,181 to Meng et al. (hereinafter, the Meng patent) in view of Genese. A terminal disclaimer is filed with this response to overcome the double patenting rejection.

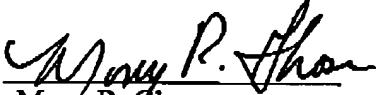
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that claims 1, 10, 15 and all claims depending therefrom are in a form for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge the fees necessary in connection with this Amendment and any other fees necessary in connection with this application, to Deposit Account Number 02-1666.

If the prosecution of this application could be furthered by a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants attorney at (201) 847-6802.

Respectfully submitted,

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